

Message

From: Collier, Demaree [Collier.Demaree@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/15/2023 3:57:49 PM
To: Kondreck, Robert [kondreck.robert@epa.gov]; Muhtsun, Ruth [muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: La Salle Chemical Plant Fire ER - Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Hey Rob,

See below in red for cleanup status – our cleanup level for vegetable gardens for manganese is 1,056 ppm and for yard areas is 2,329 ppm (we have two different cleanups as there are a lot of vegetable gardens in lasalle). All of these properties that were remediated were done so before the explosion at the plant, so if anything was already cleaned up and was recontaminated from the outfall you would see that in the new results collected.

Let me know if you need anything else!

Demaree

From: Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 8:54 AM
To: Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>; Muhtsun, Ruth <muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov>
Subject: La Salle Chemical Plant Fire ER - Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Good Morning Demaree,

I have an e-mail from a resident a Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) questioning if the presumed increase in manganese concentration from the fire caused her lawn to be over the action level. The City of LaSalle collected 16 soil samples from around the city (see attached) and all of the results came back well below Illinois TACO levels. She questions if the 16 properties have already been remediated and that's why the manganese concentrations are so low. To resolve this could you check to see which properties on this list have been remediated?

Mattheissen Park - remediated

Hegeler Park - remediated

Saint Marys Park - remediated

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	– just sampled; no cleanup required (all manganese found below 1,056 ppm)
	not yet sampled but have access agreement
	mediated
	mediated
	remediated
	remediated
	st sampled RA not complete; all manganese found below 1,056 ppm)
– just sampled; no cleanup required (all manganese found below 1,056 ppm)	
Fire Station on Rte6 – not considered a residential property; won't be sampled	

Thanks,
Rob

From: Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 12:15 PM
To: Muhtsun, Ruth <muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>
Cc: Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>; Palomeque, Adrian <Palomeque.Adrian@epa.gov>; Zintak, Leonard

<zintak.leonard@epa.gov>; Rolfes, Sarah <Rolfes.Sarah@epa.gov>; Wood, Nicole <wood.nicole@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Hi all,

I am onsite and we are going to have a press event at 2:00. I don't believe at this time that any of the events regarding the fire at Carus Chemical yesterday have impacted the cleanup in the residential area. We are still doing continuous air monitoring and some limited monitoring of the river, which have not shown any contamination from the fire event. There was some limited fall out of the potassium permanganate and particulates, but it seems to be in a very limited area and the substance is fairly inert at the very low levels they were released. Carus Chemical intends to develop a plan to address the fallout in the surrounding area and they have set up a hotline for residents to call. If we get calls where people specifically ask about their property's cleanup and how this may affect it, let me know and we can come up with a more formulated answer.

Demaree

From: Muhtsun, Ruth <muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 9:42 AM

To: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>

Cc: Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>; Palomeque, Adrian <Palomeque.Adrian@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>; Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Thanks, Jeff. I struggled with that as well. I was worried that "at this time" could be interpreted as there is a possibility that the fire could've impacted the SFD site. But leaving it out could turn out to be an inaccurate statement later on.

I agree that we should see what Demaree's thoughts are since she's on-site to verify.

Thanks,

Ruth Muhtsun
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 W. Jackson Blvd, RE-19J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-6595

From: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 9:28 AM

To: Muhtsun, Ruth <muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>

Cc: Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>; Palomeque, Adrian <Palomeque.Adrian@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>; Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

A few more edits from me. I'm not sure we should say that the fire hasn't affected the residential cleanup, since I'm not sure if we know that yet ... I suppose we could say that "at this time" there's no indication it affected the cleanup, or maybe we shouldn't say anything until we know for certain? I'll defer to Demaree on this, since I know she's on-site checking things out this morning.

Jeff Kelley

Director, External Communications Office
U.S. EPA Region 5
ph: 312-353-1159

From: Muhtsun, Ruth <muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 9:18 AM
To: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>
Cc: Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>; Palomeque, Adrian <Palomeque.Adrian@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>; Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Thanks for the edits, Rachel.

Everyone else, please let me know if you have any comments or edits.

Thanks,

Ruth Muhtsun
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 W. Jackson Blvd, RE-19J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-6595

From: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 9:10 AM
To: Muhtsun, Ruth <muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov>; Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>
Cc: Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>; Palomeque, Adrian <Palomeque.Adrian@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Thanks, Ruth. A few edits from me, attached. We should also run this by Rob/Paul/Jeff quickly before posting.

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
312-965-8901
Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov

From: Muhtsun, Ruth <muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 8:52 AM
To: Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>
Cc: Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>; Palomeque, Adrian <Palomeque.Adrian@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Agreed and agreed. Attached draft, let me know what you all think. Adrian, I cc'd you since you're acting today.

Thanks,

Ruth Muhtsun
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

77 W. Jackson Blvd, RE-19J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-6595

From: Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 8:41 AM
To: Muhtsun, Ruth <muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>
Cc: Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

That sounds like a good idea. We'll have to remember to delete it after the emergency is over.

From: Muhtsun, Ruth <muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 8:38 AM
To: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>; Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>
Cc: Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Great! Should I have it linked from the SFD webpage in case people go there first? I can use the background info below for a lead in paragraph.

Thanks,

Ruth Muhtsun
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 W. Jackson Blvd, RE-19J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-6595

From: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 8:34 AM
To: Muhtsun, Ruth <muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>; Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>
Cc: Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Thanks, Ruth. We stood up a website if you need to direct any residents to more information from EPA:
response.epa.gov/lasallechemicalfire.

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
312-965-8901
Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov

From: Muhtsun, Ruth <muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 8:32 AM
To: Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>

Cc: Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Good Morning,

Thanks everyone for keeping me posted while I was out yesterday. I have so far received zero calls from Lasalle. But I'll reach out if that changes.

Safe travels, Demaree.

Thanks,

Ruth Muhtsun
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 W. Jackson Blvd, RE-19J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-6595

From: Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 4:43 PM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Peaslee, Corey <Peaslee.Corey@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>
Cc: Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>; Rolfes, Sarah <Rolfes.Sarah@epa.gov>; Fischer, Timothy <Fischer.Timothy@epa.gov>; Muhtsun, Ruth <muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov>; Wood, Nicole <wood.nicole@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Thanks all - I am heading to the site tomorrow to meet with everyone. Let me know if anyone needs me to touch base with anyone. My cell Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Demaree

From: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 4:38 PM
To: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Peaslee, Corey <Peaslee.Corey@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>
Cc: Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Looks okay to me. Thanks.

Sam Borries
Manager, Emergency Response Branch 2
USEPA Region 5, Superfund & Emergency Management Division
Office: 312-353-8360
Mobile: 312-802-5336

From: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 4:33 PM
To: Peaslee, Corey <Peaslee.Corey@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>

Cc: Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Below (and attached if that's easier) is a draft website update based on what we all discussed and what Rob mentioned during the press conference. Thoughts?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
312-965-8901
Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov

From: Peaslee, Corey <Peaslee.Corey@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 4:10 PM

To: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>

Cc: Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

<https://www.facebook.com/WGNTV/videos/1456614954905911/>

link

From: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 4:06 PM

To: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Peaslee, Corey <Peaslee.Corey@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>

Cc: Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

WGN says they'll carry it, too.



Courtney Spinelli @CourtSpinelliTV · 11s

...

A press conference is set to start soon here at City Hall in La Salle after this morning's **fire** at a chemical plant. We'll carry it LIVE on air and online when it happens. @WGNNews



Jeff Kelley

Director, External Communications Office
U.S. EPA Region 5
ph: 312-353-1159

From: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 3:50 PM

To: Peaslee, Corey <Peaslee.Corey@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>

Cc: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

It looks like WLPO will livestream the press conference. You can watch it here: <https://www.facebook.com/1039WLPO/>

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
312-965-8901
Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov

From: Peaslee, Corey <Peaslee.Corey@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 3:17 PM
To: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>
Cc: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Just got off the phone with Rob, he's going to reach out to Rachel to confer before he participates in the press conference at 4PM CST with updates on the situation.

From: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:18 PM
To: El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Peaslee, Corey <Peaslee.Corey@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>
Cc: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Note that IEMA is not the lead, it is LaSalle County EMA.

Paul Ruesch
312-919-4382

From: El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:06 PM
To: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Peaslee, Corey <Peaslee.Corey@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>
Cc: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

I am very busy today and miss read the previous email. Please ignore my response. Thanks.

From: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 3:02 PM
To: Peaslee, Corey <Peaslee.Corey@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>
Cc: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Zintak, Leonard <zintak.leonard@epa.gov>; Collier, Demaree <Collier.Demaree@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

I'm ok leaving out the river mitigation response and adding your highlighted suggested edit. If IEMA is in the lead then yes, I would like to include that. Should we wait for Rob before sending?

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
312-965-8901
Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov

From: Peaslee, Corey <Peaslee.Corey@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 1:48 PM
To: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>
Cc: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

Hi Rachel,

I think this looks good, however to my knowledge there are currently no mitigation efforts to the Little Vermillion River, so maybe hold off on that. Do we want to say that IEMA is the lead or no?

"EPA is currently en route to the site. The agency is not the lead for the fire. We defer to local authorities responding to the fire to answer any questions about fire-fighting runoff and information provided to local residents."

From: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 1:32 PM
To: Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Peaslee, Corey <Peaslee.Corey@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>
Cc: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: Carus Chemical Press Inquiries (approval needed) and Updates

I have some press updates and response approval needed below. Is this the right group to email? Below are some questions from NBC News and my proposed response. Any edits? Jeff Kelley approved. I also reached out to IEPA's PIO, they have heard from: AP, Chicago media, and the BBC. I let them know we heard from NBC News and the NY Times. IEPA anticipates they will arrive at the same time as Rob.

From the reporter:

We understand The Little Vermillion River is behind the plant can you speak to any mitigation efforts on that front as well as a tributary to the Illinois River? Anything homeowners should do? We have been told that this is something local people should do from the La Salle police department . is this what you recommend?

"Due to recent events, an oxidizer (which appears green in color) has been released in the area. Do NOT touch this substance. If you see this substance near or on your residence it can be deactivated.

In order to deactivate it, you will need a 1:1:1 mixture of: 1 gallon of water, 1 gallon of peroxide, 1 gallon of vinegar.

At this time, we are asking that LaSalle residents continue to shelter in place."

Proposed response:

EPA is currently en route to the site. The agency is not the lead for the fire. We defer to local authorities responding to the fire to answer any questions about mitigation efforts at the Little Vermillion River and information provided to local residents.

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
312-965-8901
Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov